


## Dear Participants, Families, and Friends:

Welcome to the Family Matters bulletin for Winter 2007! It is the second in a series of bulletins and flyers from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). This bulletin is written for people who are currently enrolled in DDD, but who **are not receiving any paid services at this time.**

- Included in this bulletin is information on the subject of **hearing**. We also share information about the new DDD Assessment which takes effect June 1, 2007. The two flyers explain what this means for you and your family members.
- At any time, visit the DDD internet website to find useful information on division programs, services, and links to additional resources: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml>
- All Family Matters bulletins and flyers are posted at this site: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/publications.shtml>



**Turn  
the page for  
more information!**

## Hearing Problems in Young Children

Hearing problems in young children may go undetected by a parent or caregiver unless discovered by a healthcare provider at a well child checkup. Causes of hearing problems may be from blockage by earwax, damage to the ear drum, or damage related to medications, or diseases such as otitis media (ear infections). A hearing test may be one of the first steps to determine if your child has a hearing problem. Call your child's healthcare provider.

### Signs of possible problems with hearing in children:

- Consistent lack of response when spoken to quietly;
- Consistent inattentiveness to verbal and auditory cues;
- Inability to follow directions;
- Limited vocabulary, both receptive (words that are understood) and spoken;
- Difficulty hearing when the sound comes from the side or behind the child;
- Lack of response to music;

- Inability to distinguish the nuances of language (the child can't tell when you are angry, sad, joking, etc.);
- Difficulty in distinguishing similar sounding words like door and store, and words beginning with f, s, or sh;
- Tendency to favor one ear when turning toward a sound;
- Inability to hear low sounds, such as the ticking of a watch; and
- Turning the volume up very high or standing close to the TV, radio, or stereo.

### Learn more at these websites:

- <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/article.asp?ArticleID=1461>
- <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/silence.asp>
- <http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/disorders/causes.htm>

## Hearing Problems in Adults

Hearing problems may also be due to normal changes of aging. Other causes of hearing problems may be from blockage by earwax, damage to the ear drum, or damage related to medications, infections, or diseases like diabetes.

### Signs of possible problems with hearing:

- Talking louder than necessary;
- Inappropriate responses to questions;
- Sitting close to the TV or turning the volume up loud;
- Confusion in noisy situations;

- Isolating self or refusing to participate in previous activities; and
- Self-injurious behaviors.

Get regular exams with a hearing professional to check for wax, disease, and gradual hearing loss. Learn more at these websites:

- National Institute on Deafness: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/older.asp>
- Medicine Net: <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=20432>

Your case resource manager may be able to share more information about these topics. If you do not know who your case resource manager is, please contact the closest DDD office and ask!

#### REGION 1

Colfax (509) 397-5053  
 Colville (509) 685-5649 or Toll free (866) 715-3646  
 Moses Lake (509) 764-5674  
 Omak (509) 846-2098  
 Spokane (509) 329-2900 or Toll free (800) 462-0624  
 Wenatchee (509) 667-6164

#### REGION 2

Clarkston (509) 751-4637  
 Ellensburg (509) 925-0405  
 Kennewick (509) 374-2111  
 Sunnyside (509) 836-5438  
 Walla Walla (509) 526-2580  
 Wapato (509) 877-5190  
 Yakima (509) 225-4620 or Toll free (800) 822-7840

#### REGION 3

Bellingham (360) 676-2000 or Toll free (800) 239-8285  
 Everett (425) 339-4833 or Toll free (800) 788-2053  
 Mt. Vernon (360) 416-7261 or Toll free (800) 491-5266  
 Oak Harbor (360) 240-4723 or Toll free (877) 890-2631

#### REGION 4

Kent (253) 372-5770 or Toll free (800) 974-4428  
 Seattle (206) 568-5700 or Toll free (800) 314-3296

#### REGION 5

Bremerton (360) 475-3490 or Toll free (800) 735-6740  
 Tacoma (253) 404-6500 or Toll free (800) 248-0949

#### REGION 6

Aberdeen (360) 537-4360  
 Centralia (360) 807-7010  
 Kelso (360) 501-2520  
 Long Beach (360) 642-6237  
 Olympia (360) 725-4250 or Toll free (800) 339-8227  
 Pt. Angeles (360) 452-3327 or Toll free (877) 601-2760  
 Pt. Townsend (360) 379-4324  
 Shelton (360) 432-2039  
 South Bend (360) 875-4244  
 Vancouver (360) 750-4250 or Toll free (888) 877-3490

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/contacts.shtml>

Return Service Requested

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 Aging & Disability Services Administration  
 Division of Developmental Disabilities